

COURSE OUTLINE

CMSY-179

Successful IT Certification

1 Semester Hour

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

After successful completion of this course, the student will be able to access vendor resources, complete an individualized study plan to prepare for a certification exam, identify exam types and apply corresponding strategies for taking those exams. To benefit from this course, students should have identified a specific computer certification exam that they expect to take. The selected exam will be used for research to complete a class project; therefore, it is advised that while taking this course, students should be in the process of preparing for the selected exam. Since Internet research projects will be required in this course, familiarity with Internet research skills is strongly recommended.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Map exam objectives to course materials and develop a personalized study plan to prepare for a certification exam.
2. Access a vendor web site to download exam information and objectives, find preparation resources, and describe the procedure and requirements for registering for an exam.
3. Identify different exam types and describe strategies to apply when taking exams.
4. Identify different question types and describe strategies to apply when answering case studies, simulations, multiple response, and drag and drop questions.

Major Topics

Module 1: Finding Vendor and Test Center Resources

1. Vendor Resources
2. Finding Exam Objectives
3. Finding the appropriate study and test prep resources
4. Test Center procedures and registration procedures

Module 2: Studying for a Certification Exam

1. Organizing exam objectives
2. Prioritizing exam objectives
3. Mapping course content to exam objectives
4. Study techniques
5. Creating a study plan

Module 3: Computer Based Testing

1. Traditional Computer Based Testing
 - a. Basics
 - b. Strategies
2. Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)
 - a. Basics
 - b. Strategies

Module 4: Dealing with Different Question Types

1. Multiple Choice
 - a. Strategies
2. Simulation
 - a. Basics
 - b. Strategies
3. Case Study
 - a. Analyzing the question asked
 - b. Identifying the main features of the case study
 - c. Identifying events, problems, or issues in the case study

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance in the class (i.e., grading) will be described in the individual class syllabus, but will include the following:

1. Preparation of a personalized study plan
2. Participation in group work during class
3. Completion of homework assignments
4. Attendance

Other Course Information

This course is offered in both a lecture and online format. The lecture sections are scheduled as 6-week sections that correspond to the computer certification calendar sessions. Lecture sections meet five hours per week for six weeks.